

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, comprising:

setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user is allowed to print within a specified time period;

receiving a print job request from a network user;

determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;

preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota;
and

allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota, so that network congestion is reduced;

enabling a user to request special permission to exceed said predetermined print quota; and

automatically granting special permission to a user to exceed the predetermined print quota, when printer use in said computer network is comparatively low during said specified time period, said permission being automatically granted either in the absence of a request for said permission or after receiving a request therefor.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising logging the amount of the user's print quota, including both the number of pages and the specified time period that is used.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises setting separate print quotas for different lengths of time.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises setting a single, uniform quota for all network users.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of setting a predetermined print quota further comprises setting individual print quotas for each network user.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein a network user may request special permission to exceed the print quota.
7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the process of granting permission to exceed the print quota is automated.
8. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, the computer program product comprising:
 - instructions for setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period;
 - instructions for receiving a print job request from a network user;
 - instructions for determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;
 - instructions for preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and
 - instructions for allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota, so that network congestion is reduced;
 - instructions for enabling a user to request special permission to exceed the predetermined print quota; and
 - instructions for automatically granting special permission to a user to exceed said predetermined print quota, when printer use in said computer network is comparatively low during said specified time period, said permission being automatically granted either in the absence of a request for said permission or after receiving a request therefor.
9. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for logging the amount of the user's print quota that is used.

10. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting separate print quotas for different lengths of time.
11. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting a single, uniform quota for all network users.
12. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for setting a predetermined print quota further comprise instructions for setting individual print quotas for each network user.
13. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for a network user to request special permission to exceed the print quota.
14. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 13, wherein the instructions for granting permission to exceed the print quota are automated.
15. (Currently Amended) A system for limiting the size of print jobs in a computer network, comprising:
 - means for setting a predetermined quota for the number of pages a network user may print within a specified time period;
 - means for receiving a print job request from a network user;
 - means for determining if the print job exceeds the predetermined print quota;
 - means for preventing the print job from printing if it exceeds the predetermined print quota; and
 - means for allowing the print job to print if it does not exceed the predetermined print quota, so that network congestion is reduced;
 - means for enabling a user to request special permission to exceed the predetermined print quota; and

means for automatically granting special permission to a user to exceed said predetermined print quota, when printer use in said computer network is comparatively low during said specified time period, said permission being automatically granted either in the absence of a request for said permission or after receiving a request therefor.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for logging the amount of the user's print quota that is used.
17. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting separate print quotas for different lengths of time.
18. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting a single, uniform quota for all network users.
19. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein the means for setting a predetermined print quota further comprises means for setting individual print quotas for each network user.
20. (Original) The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for a network user to request special permission to exceed the print quota.
21. (Original) The system according to claim 16, wherein the means for granting permission to exceed the print quota is automated.
22. (Canceled)